



**CEPPS/NDI Quarterly Reports: April 1 to June 30, 2005**  
**USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00**

**BUILDING CONSENSUS ON PRINCIPLES FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION AND  
STANDARDS FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS (04532)**

**Project Dates: October 1, 2003 to December 31, 2005**  
**Total Budget: \$103,000.00 Expenses to date: \$63,274.06**

The Building Consensus on Principles for Election Observation Project seeks to address concerns among international actors about varying standards and practices among international observer organizations. The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) and The Carter Center (TCC) are cooperating as partners in organizing a process aimed at building consensus among the major intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations involved in international election observation about best practices, methodologies and professionalism in international election observation. The goal of the initiative is to commonly endorse a Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and a Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

The Declaration of Principles and Code of Conduct would normalize the process by which international election observation is organized and would create the basis for removing inconsistencies in methodologies and findings of election observation missions. The Declaration and Code would also help the public in the country holding elections, media and international donors to distinguish between credible observation and unreliable observation missions. They may also help to curtail antidemocratic governments from blocking election observation by credible organizations.

In the past quarter, NDI maintained regular communication with the 17 participating intergovernmental and international nongovernmental organizations from around the world to collect their final comments and suggested changes. NDI then prepared the final version of the Declaration and Code of conduct and submitted it the UN for its approval. The United Nations legal department and the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs approved formal UN sponsorship of the Declaration and Code, in addition the Boards of Directors of NDI and TCC formally approved the final version for sponsorship by the two organizations. NDI then circulated, on behalf of UNEAD, TCC and NDI, the final documents to the 17 participating organizations for their endorsements. Follow-up with the organizations will continue to assist their internal endorsement processes. Also, NDI, TCC and UNEAD will organize a meeting of the participating organizations at the UN in New York, which will likely take place in mid to late October 2005, to commemorate the endorsements and consider challenged to implementing the

Declaration and Code of Conduct. That session will also discuss further challenges for ensuring the integrity of international election observation. The Declaration will remain open for endorsement by additional organizations after the meeting at the UN, which endorsements will be lodged with UNEAD.

In the next quarter, NDI will continue, in cooperation with UNEAD and TCC, to assist the participating organizations in their internal endorsement processes. The Institute will also coordinate with UNEAD and TCC ensure proper organization of the meeting at the UN. In addition, NDI, UNEAD and TCC, will continue to focus attention on organizing a final meeting in the process (in late 2005 or early 2006) to be held with representatives of the endorsing organizations and international donor agencies by the end of 2005. That meeting will review donor coordination and donors' roles in facilitating effectiveness and integrity of international election observation.

## **PROMOTING LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS (02525)**

**Project Dates: July 30, 2002 to December 31, 2005**

**Total Budget: \$21,000.00 Expenses to date: \$293.78**

During the last quarter NDI staff continued reviewing and finalizing sections of the text and appendices in light of developments the field. NDI expects to update and finalize the text and appendices in the next quarter. By October, the guidebook would be fully formatted and submitted to a printer for publication.

The guide will be a tool for legal, civic and political practitioners seeking to review, draft and comment on election laws in order to improve the content of and processes for establishing the legal frameworks for elections. It will be distributed broadly to civic organizations and political parties engaged in law reform efforts, as well as to NDI's pro bono legal network, field staff and other interested parties, in addition to USAID missions and other interested parties.

## **DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES ON THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES (03530)**

**Project Dates: September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2005**

**Total Budget: \$110,000.00 Expenses to date: \$50,506.67**

In the last quarter, NDI continued to develop a series of research papers that explore the role of political parties in democratic systems. Authors Kenneth Janda, Michael Johnston, Pippa Norris and Susan Scarrow continued to work on incorporating feedback from the February writers' conference, as well as from the project's advisory board and NDI senior staff members. Drafts of each paper are currently being submitted. In addition, consultant Denise Baer and NDI are completing an overview to round-out the series.

NDI also contracted a copy editor who will help prepare the final drafts for publication. Dr. John Gould is a former editor with the Journal of Democracy, who holds a PhD in political science. The papers will be shared at the annual American Political Science Association meeting in Washington, D.C., on August 31, 2005, and then printed in September. Preparations are under way for this meeting.